FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 SEPTEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes raided factories in Arak and Esfahan 25 September, hitting plants that manufacture machinery, petrochemicals, and aluminium, the Iraqi command announced in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Tehran radio reported that 34 civilians were wounded in the raids and cited an Iranian military spokesman's warning that Iran will retaliate by shelling economic and military targets in the suburbs of Basra for 2 days.

Iranian planes bombed a garrison 100 km inside northern Iraq the previous day, according to a military communique cited by IRNA. Tehran radio also reported that Iranian ground forces raided Iraqi positions in the marshes east of the Tigris River, wiping out an Iraqi company. However, an Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses said that Iraq's VI Army Corps crushed an Iranian attack east of the Tigris. In another development, the Iranian charge d'affaires in London rejected the British Government's claim that Iran was responsible for a 23 September attack on a British ship in the Gulf, asserting that it is Iraq which has undermined security in the region, Tehran radio reported.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi defense minister arrived in Brazil in order to purchase more weapons for his country, according to the Spanish agency EFE. The Sao Paulo paper *Veja* said the Iraqis will insist on a delivery deadline in any new arms deal as they are anticipating an Iranian offensive within the next few months. In the FRG, police have discovered and prevented illegal arms deals to the Iran-Iraq crisis zone, DPA reported, noting that investigations uncovered plans to send Cobra-bell helicopters, Sidewinder missiles, and M-48 tanks to Iran.

As for Iran's efforts to promote military self-sufficiency, the commander of an air base at Esfahan stated that Iranian technicians have designed and installed new systems in Iran's F-14's which will increase their combat capability, IRNA reported. The Esfahan base has provided special training courses for flying F-14's, IRNA said. Iran has also begun mass production of Iranian-designed machine guns, according to Tehran radio.

Lebanon

Israeli warplanes attacked a Fatah position south of Sidon 25 September, hitting tents and other targets in a forest, far away from residential areas, IDF radio announced. The Israeli aircraft successfully evaded SAM-7's and caused a great deal of damage, the radio said. The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported that one person was killed and three others were wounded in the attack

Syrian-French Relations

French Cooperation Minister Michel Aurillac held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus, Paris radio reported, adding that while the official agenda for the meeting was bilateral relations and the Middle East situation, it is "certain" that the talks focused on the problem of terrorism.

In Paris, *Le Monde* published an interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who denounced reports of Syrian involvement in the recent Paris terrorist attacks as part of an "anti-Syrian campaign" that seeks to undermine the "trusting and friendly" relations between France and Syria.

This campaign is supported by "certain services within the French Government," he maintained, and it seeks to discredit Syria and to confuse legitimate resistance against Israeli occupation with terrorism.

A spokesman for Syrian Vice President Rif'at al-Asad expressed the latter's condemnation of the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, according to an AFP report cited by Voice of Lebanon radio. Despite an earlier report that Rif'at had returned to Damascus, the spokesman disclosed that he is currently in Spain, adding that he has maintained an official residence in Europe during the past year for "health reasons."

Jordanian Criticism of Egypt

Former Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat and a number of other Jordanian personalities have sent a cable to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak strongly condemning the Egyptian-Israeli summit, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

An editorial in the Amman paper *Al-Dustur* expressed "pain, bitterness, and disappointment" at the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv, voicing "amazement and anger" at the "unfamiliar scene" of the Egyptian ambassador presenting his credentials to the president of Israel.

Morocco

King Hassan II praised the "positive role" of Moroccan Jewry during a 24 September speech to members of the International Association of Moroccan Jews, Rabat radio reported. Although the radio did not mention the presence of Israelis at the meeting, Jerusalem radio announced earlier that four Knesset MK's would meet with Hassan that day while visiting Morocco to attend a rally of Moroccan Jews.

YAR-PDRY

The YAR foreign minister told the UAE weekly *Al-Ittihad Al-Usbu'i* that YAR-PDRY relations are normal and he denied reports of recent border clashes, WAKH noted.

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PATRIOT Views 'Growing' Pakistan, China 'Menace'

BK241421 New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Sep 86 p 4

[Editorial by Jamna Das Akhtar: "Pak-Chinese Collusion Against India"]

[Excerpts] President Zia of Pakistan combines in himself a cool and calculating strategist and wily politician. The cunning fox that he is, he patiently waits for his prey to fall into his trap and once there, the enemy has no chance to escape. Perhaps a bit of an exaggeration, but the general-politician is quite adept at beating the so-called politicians and statesmen at their game. [passage omitted]

In the context of peace and security in the Indian subcontinent, Pakistan is playing the American and to some but increasing extent the Chinese game by proxy. To be in the good books of the imperialist power on the one hand and the socialist mini-power on the other is a delicate and balancing act which Zia has been so successfully performing. In so doing, he tries his best to give an impression that by serving these two masters, and strange bed-fellows at that, he is sincerely striving to be friendly with India! As the occasion demands he can go out of the way to praise Indian leaders — past and present — to win over the soft-liners in India masquerading as well-wishers.

At Harare, President Zia commended the role of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in furthering the cause of NAM [Nonaligned Movement]. He also very eloquently praised Mrs Indira Gandhi. He also asserted that Pakistan was keen on normalising relations with India and that his country opposed interference in the internal affairs of other countries. No doubt he wants to go down in the history as an honourable man who strove for preservation of independence of nations.

Unfortunately, records speak otherwise. An undemocratic despotic ruler, whose penchant for suppression of the aspirations of his own country men is apparent as well as real, and who leaves no stone unturned to perpetuate his rule can ill afford to talk of democratic norms from international platforms. The fact of the matter is that the Pakistani ruler has been grossly violating the norm that he sought to propound from Harare.

It is a well-acknowledged fact that there are over 100 camps in Pakistan where the so-called Afghan refugees are imparted military training. Weapons and other war arsenal are generously provided by the U.S. who do not hide their help and cooperation to the Afghans in Pakistan to make frequent forays into the Afghan territory. A number of Pakistanis and foreign newsmen have gleefully admitted that there were conducted into the Afghan war front, which in reality is well within Afghanistan.

Despite the gross interference in the affairs of another country — Afghanistan — President Zia wishes to be recognised as an honourable man, deeply interested in protecting the territorial integrity of all countries of the world! It is perhaps very naive on his part when he maintains that there are no such camps in Pakistan and the Afghan refugees have been permitted to say in Pakistan on "humanitarian considerations."

President Zia tells another white lie and gets almost scot free. His parrot-like repetition that he does not support the Khalistani terrorists is again a 'brave act'. He point-blank denies the operation of terrorist training camps in Pakistan despite the overwhelming proof provided by the arrested extremists who have crossed over to India. Recently, two new camps were started at Rankera and Chira, both in occupied Kashmir.

It is unfortunate that there is a strong lobby in India that would like the Government of India to ignore those facts as of marginal consequence and have faith in the present leadership in Pakistan. This ostrich-like attitude being advocated by this lobby is hopefully the reflection of a genuine desire to forge friendship between the two countries. However, one may venture to suggest that people like Subramanian Swamy, whose credentials as an American advocate have been well accepted, do not fall in this category. The proposed Pakistan pilgrimage by the Lok Dal leader will, we are afraid, end in a public relation exercise for President Zia. This unsolicited help very much fits into Zia's strategy of saintly postures outwardly, while preparing for hostile action at an appropriate time.

One can have a hunch, if not confidence, that President Zia like his predecessors is on the verge of launching an aggression against India — more specifically in Kashmir. In all previous misadventures, the Pakistani leaders had denied that there was any pre-planned action. [passage omitted]

Now, again, preparations are being made to commit aggression in Kashmir. The "Azad Kashmir" government of Sardar Abdul Qayyum has made budgetary provisions for the "liberation of Kashmir" despite President Zia's infrequent reference to the Simla agreement as a basis for settlement of the so-called Kashmir issue.

Sardar Qayyum has categorically stated that the Simla Agreement is dead, implying thereby the need to take direct action. In the recent past a number of conferences and public meetings have been organised in Britain and occupied Kashmir where highly inflammatory speeches were made. The strain of the rhetoric was "Jehad".

It is significant to note that infiltration of armed Pakistanis into Kashmir has increased as is indicated by the arrest of a number of them recently. Juxtapose these events on the disturbances being created in the Kashmir valley by the fundamentalists and pro-Pak elements, and one has a very clear picture emerging.

Jamaat Islami in Kashmir has become very active and bold. This organisation does not accept affiliation of Kashmir with the rest of India and its members are encouraged to hoist Pakistani flags.

The danger from outside to the integrity of India should not be belittled, notwithstanding the conciliatory homilies by the Pakistani leaders. In this context the hardening of the Chinese position vis a vis boundary dispute with India should be considered by the Government of India in any policy modifications that might become necessary.

The intrusion of the Chinese in the Sumdorong Chu Valley in the eastern sector is seen as a bargaining point by the Chinese for

any possible settlement in the western sector. The Chinese seem to have perfected the art of first grabbing the "disputed territory" and then ask for a negotiated settlement. If the Chinese have now woken up after more than two decades during which India had maintained physical, albeit token, presence in the now "disputed" eastern sector, the reason could be the growing unsettling conditions within India and the contemplated Pakistani evil designs.

China and Pakistan are hand-in-glove in embarassing India. Handing over of the Karakoram Road built on the Indian territory to China by Pakistan is a highly provocative act. The growing menace by China and Pakistan is also to be viewed in the background of military help offered by the U.S. to Pakistan. It is dangerous to think that relations with China and Pakistan will be improved in the near future.

Finally, to expect Pakistan to get rid of both the American and Chinese influence in favour of a genuine friendship with India is being too unrealistic.

Arunachal Assured of Steps Against Chinese Intrusion
BK241619 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly has been assured that all steps have been taken to maintain the people's confidence in the wake of the recent Chinese intrusion in Tawang District. The issue came up during the question hour of the Assembly session in Itanagar today. The chief minister, Mr Gegong Apang, said it is not correct to say that the people in the area are in a dilemma following the intrusion. Earlier, members paid a tribute to the late Mr Jagjivan Ram and Mr (Norse Namatu), a former speaker of the Assembly.

Shankar Accuses Pakistan of Aiding Punjab Terrorists
BK250323 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 25 Sep 86

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, has accused Pakistan of providing weapons, training, and other assistance to terrorists in Punjab and has asked it to modify its attitude on this crucial issue for an improvement of the Indo-Pakistan relations.

Mr Shiv Shankar was answering questions at the joint meeting of the U.S. Foreign Policy Committee and the Indian Chamber of Commerce in New York yesterday. He said the Indian Government had given detailed evidence to Islamabad but Pakistan's response was negative. Such an approach is not helpful and Islamabad must give a cooperative account of itself.

The minister said that there are misgivings in the minds of the Indian people about Pakistan's nuclear program. He reaffirmed that India's nuclear program is completely peaceful. He said it is up to Pakistan to remove our doubt so that a positive understanding can develop between the two countries.

Former CPI Leader, Policeman Shot Dead in Punjab
BK251255 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 25 Sep 86

[Text] In Punjab, a former CPI member of Legislative Assembly, Mr Darshan Singh (Kanedian), was shot dead by two terrorists in Hoshiarpur District today. A police spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent that the CPI leader was attacked when he was going from Mahalpur town to his village. A head constable of the Punjab police, (Ranbir Singh), was also shot dead by some terrorists near his house in Amritsar last night. Meanwhile, the Faridkot police arrested four dreaded terrorists this morning after an encounter. One terrorist and a security guard were injured.

Punjab Police Arrest 10 'Hardcore' Terrorists
BK240311 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] The Punjab police have arrested ten hardcore terrorists including an army deserter who is allegedly responsible for the killing of Brigadier Puri at Ramgarh, in Bihar 2 years ago. According to an official spokesman, the deserter, Rachpal Singh, is a member of a gang which had conspired to kill top ranking police and army officers. He was arrested in Tarn Taran. The remaining nine arrests were made in the Patiala District resulting in the busting of three gangs of terrorists. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

The district police chief told our Chandigarh correspondent that one of the arrested is Harminder Singh, secretary of the All India Sikh Student Federation. He said they had conspired to kill some leading politicians and citizens.

Visiting Zambian Minister on Frontline States Strategy
BK241308 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] India and Zambia have agreed on a strategy to strengthen the Frontline States in their fight against the racist regime of South Africa. Disclosing this at a news conference in New Delhi today, the Zambian prime minister, Mr Musokotwane, said the strategy was evolved during his discussions with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He however did not reveal the details of the strategy. He said he would be reporting first about the talks to President Kaunda. The visiting prime minister said Zambia has sought India's help in setting up an iron and steel plant and also a paper and pulp mill. Agriculture and small-scale and cottage industries are the other areas where India can help, he said.

'Stern Action' Urged in Karachi Hijack 'Episode'
BK240912 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] India has demanded a thorough investigation into the recent Karachi hijacking episode and has asked Pakistan to take stern action against those found responsible for causing such

excessive casualty. The issue was raised by the civil aviation secretary, Dr S.S. Sidhu, while addressing the 26th General Assembly session of the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal yesterday. He pointed out that several innocent people had been massacred in Karachi in the course of the commando operation. The General Assembly is considering questions of civil aviation security among other issues at its 14-day session.

Ziaul Haq Interviewed on Relations With India, Issues

BK240417 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said the government is trying to maintain balance in the provinces to strengthen national integration. In an interview published in the *Baluchistan Times* of Quetta today, he said the government wants to speed up the pace of development and this desire is reflected in the federal and provincial budgets. He said no change has been made in the Constitution on federation-state relations in order to prevent this already-settled issue from coming up for discussion once again. The president said the democratic process which has emerged after a long interval needs some time to become stable. He expressed the hope that this process will be stabilized further if the forthcoming elections are conducted correctly. He said spreading disorder under the guise of political activities will not be allowed.

On the Kalabagh dam, the president said we should review this project from a national point of view and take effective steps to remove the misconceptions from the minds of people in this connection.

On the Afghanistan problem, he stressed the need to find some political solution through the indirect talks in Geneva. He reiterated that there is no military solution to this problem.

On Pakistan-India relations, the president expressed the hope that if the current process of normalizing relations is continued it will yield good results. He said the concerted efforts of the SARC will bring speedy social and economic progress in this region.

Ziaul Haq Further Views Current Issues

BK241559 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has again said that Pakistan is sincerely striving to normalize relations with India and wants to live in peace with all of its neighboring states, as the establishment of good relations with neighbors is the cornerstone of its foreign policy.

Addressing a news conference in Quetta before his departure for Islamabad after winding up his 2-day tour of Baluchistan this afternoon, the president said Pakistan has adopted a principled stand on all issues and has always tried to maintain relations with other countries on this basis of mutual respect and honor.

Answering a question about India's plan to construct a dam on Jhelum River, the president said the Indus Basin Treaty prohibits the construction of such a dam. He expressed the hope that India will not violate this treaty.

Referring to the domestic situation, the president said that the present elected government is fully capable of carrying forward the democratic process and strengthening and consolidating democratic institutions. The question of a midterm election does not arise. Those, who had boycotted elections should now wait for the next elections in 1990, and they should give an opportunity to the popularly elected government to complete its term and to work in a peaceful atmosphere to serve the people. Answering a question, the president said present government's attitude is highly flexible and its doors are always open.

In reply to another question, the president said the present government has the full right to take a final decision on the question whether the local councils' future elections will be held on a party or nonparty basis. He said it is not only Pakistan where local bodies elections have been held on a nonparty basis. He can provide the examples of six more countries where the political parties have no say in the local bodies.

About the country's general law and order situation, Ziaul Haq said that Baluchistan is the most peaceful province and the situation in other parts of the country is also very good. The situation in the Sind Province is not as bad as certain quarters are portraying. He expressed the confidence that the elected provincial government will soon further improve the situation there with the cooperation of the people. He said the government is taking every possible step to improve the situation there. The president was seen off at the airport by the provincial governor, retired General Mohammad Musa, Chief Minister Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir Khan, provincial ministers, members of the national and provincial assemblies, and senior civil and military officials.

Solution Sought to India's Plan for Jhelum River Dam

BK241024 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that efforts are underway to arrive at a solution of the plan by India to construct a barrage on the Jhelum River in occupied Kashmir through the Indus Basin Commission. He said that Pakistan wanted the spirit of the treaty to be observed fully so that there is no problem. He said that under an international agreement between the two countries about the utilization of the river waters, the agreement should be observed. [sentence as heard] The spokesman said Pakistan Government's effort would be [to] persuade the Indian Government to give appropriate direction to the Indus Basin commissioner so that this problem is resolved at the technical level. He said according to information gathered by the Pakistan Indus Basin commissioner, some excavation work has already taken place.

Contacts Made With UN's Cordovez on Afghan Talks

BK241036 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] Pakistan is in contact with the UN secretary general's personal representative, Mr Cordovez, about the fixing of the date for the next round of talks on Afghanistan. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan has full confidence in the commitment of the secretary general's personal representative to promote a mutually satisfactory settlement of the Afghanistan question through the existing negotiations for-

mat. He said Pakistan supports these efforts for the finalization of a comprehensive settlement.

Inquiry into Soviet Diplomat's Murder Continues
BK250310 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 25 Sep 86

[Text] The government has given assurances that the inquiry into the murder of the Soviet diplomatic representative will be finalized in accordance with the laws of the country as soon as possible. An official spokesman said in Islamabad that the widow of the Soviet diplomat recorded her statement before a magistrate prior to her departure for Moscow on 21 September. The magistrate went to the Soviet Embassy and submitted the statement of the diplomat's widow. According to the modalities of the court, the statement, in Russian, was translated and read back to the widow. Soviet officials were also present when the statement was read.

SRI LANKA

State Minister Says Talks Continue on Ethnic Problem

BK241303 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1248 GMT 24 Sep 86

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 24 *(Lanka Puwath)* — The Sri Lanka Cabinet of Ministers today decided to continue with talks to settle the ethnic problem in this country, as they have for some time, despite unceasing acts of terrorism, State Minister Dr Anandatissa de Alwis told newsmen at his weekly press briefing in Colombo this evening.

Cabinet spokesman Dr de Alwis said the Cabinet had discussed reports of attempts being made by certain people by various means to prevent members of Parliament either attending or voting for the government proposals which relate to settlement of the ethnic problem.

He said Cabinet also discussed certain powers which have existed in statute since 1971 which can be enforced to prevent illegal and forced methods that some people may try to adopt to disrupt the working of democracy by interfering with the free and unrestricted actions of members of Parliament.

Bomb Blast Wounds 5 Security Men in Batticaloa

BK240937 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0921 GMT 24 Sep 86

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 24 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Five Security Forces personnel were wounded when a remote controlled bomb fixed to a wall by separatist terrorists exploded in Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka today.

The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* that the Security Forces had gone to the Sri Lanka Transport Board Depot, Batticaloa, this morning to borrow a crane. When they were returning the bomb fixed to a wall had exploded wounding five of them. The wounded are being treated at the Batticaloa hospital.

Terrorists Attack Railway Line

BK240925 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0918 GMT 24 Sep 86

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 24 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Four Security Forces men were killed and three others were wounded when separatist terrorists attacked a Security Forces railway line clearance patrol sent out from Monkey Bridge, Trincomalee along the Trincomalee-Colombo railway line, eastern Sri Lanka today.

The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* that the Security Forces returned fire and the terrorists fled.

Corporal H.S.K. Lakshman of Katana, Private P.G. Padmasiri of Ambalangoda, Police Constable K.S. Malkumara of Horana, and Police Constable Wijeratne Banda of Mangulangamuna were killed while three other Security Forces personnel were wounded. The wounded were admitted to hospital.

It is believed that the number of terrorist casualties were very heavy.

'Precautionary' Curfew Reimposed

BK250841 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0826 GMT 25 Sep 86

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 25 *(Lanka Puwath)* — The curfew in the troubled eastern province town of Batticaloa has been reimposed within the municipal council limits from 1800 hours (local time) today to 0500 hours (local time tomorrow.

The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* that the situation was calm and quiet and life had returned to normal despite news reports to the contrary and the explosion of one claymore mine.

The curfew was being reimposed as a precautionary measure.

Khamene'i Addresses Forces Leaving for Fronts

LD241641 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 24, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Wednesday that Muslim forces of Iran are fully prepared to launch a large-scale offensive on Iraq but Iraqi troops are so desperate the weak that there seems to be no need for it.

The president said that an Iranian victory in the Iraqi-imposed war is undoubtedly the Islamic Republic's legitimate right.

Addressing thousands of volunteer forces leaving for the war fronts, Khamene'is said, "not only will Iran defeat the Ba'thist Iraqi regime but also it is quite capable of responding to the threats of imperialist powers".

The head of the Supreme Defense Council also referred to his Tuesday visit to a school in Tehran and said he was highly impressed by a six-year old-school boy donating his savings for the warfronts.

Khamene'i said that the continuation of the sacred defensive war is an Islamic duty undertaken by the Iranian people.

The Iranian people's contribution to the war affairs and close cooperation between them and officials have made the Islamic Revolution of Iran unique in the world, the president said.

Envoy to USSR Presents Credentials, Reviews Relations

LD242244 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 24, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to the Soviet Union Maser Hayrani-Nowbari met with the vice-president of the Supreme Soviet and submitted a copy of his credentials to him in Moscow Wednesday.

At the meeting, the Soviet vice president expressed satisfaction with the growth of Tehran-Moscow relations. He said that the upcoming visit of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Moscow as well as formation of the joint Irano-Soviet committee will significantly help expand the bilateral relations.

In response, the Iranian ambassador said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to expand its relations with the Soviet Union on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

Ministers Address Government Council on War, Issues

LD241206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, during today's session of the Government Council, the Cabinet ministers, who were wearing military uniforms, once again renewed their allegiance to Imam Khomeyni, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and our country's steadfast ummah, so as to continue the holy defense of Islam and the revolution until final victory. Afterward Colonel Jalali, defense minister, explained the specifications of the first machine gun entirely designed and manufactured by the committed and inventive personnel of the military industries. The machine gun has gone into mass production on the occasion of War Week.

During the session, the education minister presented cash donations from the students of Mohammadiyeh school who had submitted their valuable savings to the president to help in the war. The governor general of Tehran also presented a report on the distribution of the population and the difficulty of providing services as well as the achievements of the governor general's office. On the basis of this report, the Government Council approved the following:

1. The allocation of 50 million rials for the construction of a sugar mill in Desful;

2. the allocation of 100 million rials for removing financial bottlenecks facing the Education Ministry departments in various provinces;

3. The allocation of 300 million rials to the Interior Ministry for the war-stricken provinces of Khuzestan, Bakhtaran, Ilam, Kordestan, and western Azarbayjan.

On the basis of this report and to mark War Week, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi gave a speech at the conclusion of today's session, saying: War Week is being held in honor of the people's resistance for the sake of Islam; the government, behind the rank of the leadership [Khomeyni], and the people, feels dutybound to mobilize all the resources of the state of the war.

The prime minister added: Our enemies thought that by imposing economic pressure they would be able to weaken the determination of the nation and the government to terminate the war victoriously, whereas 6 years of resistance, steadfastness, and self-sacrifice have created a high morale in our nation, and the nation will continue to defend Islam — forever. Today a new generation has been born in the country which considers itself to be part of the Islamic Revolution taking place all over the world, and this generation is not prepared to bow before arrogant powers.

The prime minister went on: Of course, the remnants of the liberals and those intoxicated by the United States still exist in the country, and right from the start they were provoking the people for a compromise, and were viewing a solution through a compromise with the major powers. However, if their recommendations had been accepted, we would have fallen under the jackboots of the United States once again. But at the start of the war, the imam of the ummah graciously said that should this war continue for another 20 years, we will continue to resist. Our nation has stood behind this policy for 6 years, and it is prepared to resist as long as this sacred defense continues.

Minister Comments on Lower Oil Revenues, Economy

PM221330 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Sep 86 pp 18-19

[Unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent's interview with Minister of Heavy Industry Behzad Nabavi; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] What do you think of the new economic program? How successful do you think it will be in lowering dependence on oil?

[Nabavi] It is obvious that the drop in the oil price has caused the country to have a lower currency reserve, so naturally, running the country's economy in the previous manner will not be possible. Of course there has to be a change. The lower oil price can achieve the old slogan of reduced dependence on oil revenues. After the revolution we shouted this slogan many times, but we never carried it out. Perhaps it was not even possible. I now feel that while we had the capability to earn high revenues from the sale of oil, we would have had problems if we had wanted to implement the current economic policies. At present, lessening the dependence on oil and implementing a policy that is not dependent on petroleum has also caused us many problems.

When our currency earnings drop, we are forced to combat the needs of a dependent economy. If we have dollars and foreign currency, we should not criticize dependent industries, rather we should complete them and increase our investments in them so as to put them into production. But now that the circumstances have changed, we are not even able to provide funds to run these dependent industries and it is not in our interest that we should provide these funds under the present conditions. It is no longer possible to have new and large investments to make these industries totally independent.

Naturally, this is the best time for us to correct the economy, which means closing some of the country's dependent industrial units. We have already started this, but of course this will have a chain of consequences such as unemployment, changing the product range, and shortages of certain goods on the market. The best possible circumstances have now been created to correct the country's economy, which was not possible before.

With the lower oil revenues, a golden opportunity has been created for the Islamic Republic of Iran's revolutionary people and government to rid itself of a dependent economy. If we cannot take this opportunity, this chance will never occur again. If we do not change the basis of the country's economy in this 1 or 2 years, we will face a financial crisis and we will not be able to correct the foundations.

After this change we can implement a series of policies, and our society is ready for it, but if 1 year passes and nothing happens, it will be hard to change things. But society has to be made aware of the necessity and the benefits of this new program.

For example, when we announced that we will no longer import butter, the people understood and accepted it. The people know that when the 28 dollars per barrel of oil, which is our only source of hard currency, becomes 4.8 dollars, we can no longer import many things, including butter. Although butter is not a luxury food item and is really one of the country's needs, if we are to spend 100 million dollars on butter, in the present conditions, this is not necessary.

Many such changes in the foundations of consumer needs are ways to combat lower petroleum revenues.

In short I say that we did not cause the drop in oil prices and we condemn it, but we will make the best of it and we believe that our economic policies have to take this change into consideration and we have to change the foundation of our consumer needs and change the country's economic system. It will lower hard currency spending and will increase revenues gained from nonpetroleum products. If, God willing, we act in a proper manner, the result will be that in a short and designated time we will be able to gain a considerable sum of currency through the sale of nonoil products and then we will lower our staggering hard currency spending.

I believe that we would be unable to carry out many of these plans if these circumstances had not been brought about. We were unable to do this 2 or 3 years ago.

Today, for example, the price of meat is high, although this is not only because of lower meat imports — for a time we could not import meat from European countries because of the explosion at the Soviet nuclear power plant, and this caused shortages — but in general the present economic conditions caused the price of meat to go up in the market. This will of course cause problems for the people, but the public has to be informed and the policies have to be correct.

[Correspondent] Following the drop in petroleum prices, the countries whose economies were totally dependent on oil, such as OPEC members and other exporting non-OPEC countries, implemented a series of new economic policies. In Egypt, imports were limited and foreign expatriates were required to give up some of their hard currency earnings. In Indonesia and Algeria there have been some programs to economize, and also imports have been lowered. Efforts have also been made in these countries to activate the public's currency savings. In some Persian Gulf nations and Saudi Arabia many high-investment projects have been closed down. These policies are all the aftermath of lower oil prices. In Iran, as a revolutionary and progressive state, a "new economic plan" has been implemented. What are the basic differences between the revolutionary program for Iran and the reforms in these other countries?

[Nabavi] First of all I have not studied any of the policies and programs in these countries so I cannot compare their planning with that of Iran. Second, I do not believe personally that since the drop in oil prices until now we have done anything that is so revolutionary and so basic. Of course, we have tried hard but there are some obstacles, problems, and limitations which do not allow us to act in a revolutionary manner, the way you have suggested. Even in the implementation of the "new economic policy" we have to act with caution.

As I said, if the oil revenues had not dropped we could not have implemented many of these policies to change the basic foundation of our consumer needs. Even now we have many problems. For example, I myself believe that we should have pursued a series of much stronger actions than those mentioned in the new economic policy. I believe, for example, that we have to ration many items. Of course this is being done, but nonetheless it has to be done slowly.

Because of the atmosphere that has existed in the past few years in connection with rationing — some say rationing is a communist phenomenon — and as regards other things, we ourselves have lost the nerve to push for stronger programs. [passage omitted]

In such circumstances, when such an atmosphere exists, you see that many of the revolutionary ideas that have to be implemented quickly come up against a great many problems. [passage omitted]

The issue is not only for the government to present revolutionary plans. The government is unable to carry out many of its revolutionary programs and it acts cautiously. In response to the first point that you raised about other countries, I said I did not know about those other countries — but in general, I believe that the things we do now, or in the future, have to be a good deal more revolutionary than those in other countries. If you yourself have studied this matter you can compare and you can print this in the newspaper. If you have good plans, you can present them to the government and the government will implement them. We do not have the time to study other things.

[Correspondent] Will you please mention the obstacles preventing the government from acting in a revolutionary manner? Are these man-made obstacles which have their roots in the economic makeup of the country, or are they natural obstacles? Are they executive obstacles or psychological and social ones? Which one of these, do you feel, is putting the most weight on the government's shoulders?

[Nabavi] We do not believe that natural obstacles or the economic foundations are the basic problems. You know these obstacles yourself. As we have mentioned before in our talks, there are some habits that have been imposed on us to match our previous income. For example, we are now used to doing construction and road work with heavy machinery, and to go back to a spade and shovel is impossible. Tractors, combine harvesters, and trucks are now a part of our agricultural makeup and even the workers' wages are calculated accordingly. It is not possible to change these. In any case these are the problems of our economy and there are not many solutions for these issues. We can only make changes in the manufacture of such things, and of course it is very important to economize. In the past few years we got used to using a machine only once. For example, we ordered the machinery and did not order the spare parts. We used the machinery once, and when it needed parts, we left that one and used another. This is where we have to economize and this is something that we can do.

There are problems in implementing this in society as well, but I do not know which weighs more on the government. If you talk about the people's readiness, we do not prepare the people well enough. We do not inform them adequately, and this causes dissatisfaction. If we explain everything to the public, they really have the capacity to understand everything. For example, if tomorrow the government decides not to import butter, the people have to be told exactly why there is no butter. We have to tell the people that there is no butter, but instead there is independence for the country, there is less dependence on petroleum. This is the basis for the removal of a single-product economy, to be replaced by changes in consumer habits. This will also encourage the local production of butter and many other things. The people have to be told precisely that, in the present circumstances, our spending exceeds our income, so we have to resolve this deficit somewhere. This means we have to reduce our spending. We have to let them know where we have made cuts up until now, when we have reached the level of butter. When the people understand that, for example, the production of private cars has stopped or is strictly limited, when they know that the production of many vehicles will be limited and that many car factories will be closed down or will be used to manufacture other things, they will understand that butter comes next and they will know that this is necessary. I do not feel this problem cannot be solved by direct contact with the people. The public is prepared.

With regard to political and psychological obstacles, these problems show themselves because we have not yet defined the country's final economic path. There are still rigid differences over the final image of an Islamic society. Will there be a polarized society, or, as the Hypocrites say, will society be a classless one? Or will society be a mixture of the two?

What is the role of the private sector? What is the role of the nationalized sector? What are the problems with concentrating wealth in the private sector? What will be the harm in centralizing wealth in the hands of the government? What will be our policy then? How should we approach these issues? These are the things that are not clear now, and this is why much of the decisionmaking causes problems, because it clashes with the views of the various ideological factions in society.

At the beginning, when you said that Iran's programs have to be more revolutionary than in other places, I said this will cause problems and will limit us. Part of the caution is because of opposition; and some of the fear of opposition causes us not to go after uncertain things. Our policy has been to stay away from those areas that might cause ideological clashes in society. Because then we believe we would have to spend our energy in struggle and also in solving the problems caused by this struggle. In such circumstances, instead of changing the economic policies and changing our consumer habits and other useful programs, we will have to engage in a struggle. For example, I personally believe that in the present conditions of the country there is no need to send 150,000 Iranian pilgrims to Mecca and for Iran to hold the record for the number of pilgrims sent there. Many Iranian pilgrims go to Mecca several times, and this is not necessary. Even if the person is going for the first time and is financially able, the issue is that the Islamic Republic may not be financially able because their hard currency needs are met by the Islamic Republic.

Another issue, for example, is the hard currency spent on those studying abroad. Although these persons study for the benefit of the Islamic Republic and if, God willing, they return, work, and serve here, we say that in the present conditions, when there are greater problems, it does not make sense for us to spend $400 million annually for some of our young people to study abroad. In that case there are two solutions. Either they can work to have an income to continue their study or else return home and serve to the best of their ability. They can also work for a while and continue their studies later.

These programs could be difficult and could cause some damage, but in order to prevent even greater damage perhaps it would be best to implement them. Perhaps these could be cases that could cause political problems.

[Correspondent] The private sector and the bazaar in general viewed the drop in oil prices as something positive for itself. Even the newspaper which is their spokesman said "The drop in petroleum prices brings the good news of an end to government control." This is, of course, because the lower price lessens the government's control. Because they view the government as their enemy and because they view nationalization as an act of hostility toward themselves, they say that with the lower prices the policy will turn toward export of nonoil products and that foreign exports will revolve around this. They also know that they have no control over oil sales but they think they can control the export of nonoil products.

As a member of the government and as a person who has had a hand in the organization of the new economic policies, would you please say what the government plans to do. What are its decisions to prevent the lower oil price from bringing about policies that would result in a capitalist society. I believe that this is one of the aims of imperialism — to implement capitalism — at least in Iran.

[Nabavi] In this regard I have to tell you frankly that the government has no plans. All its efforts are geared to supporting any movement that the private sector might have. The reason why the government has no plans is because — as I said in the previous answer to your question — the government is not following a clearly defined economic policy. It is not clear what the limitations of the private sector or the nationalized sector should be. The way in which Article 44 of the Constitution is to be implemented is not clear. This is why not only today, but for the past few years, I put no blame on the government, for it has not wanted to stop the activities of the private sector.

We give an 80-percent loan to people to carry out projects, to any volunteer who wishes to be active in various production projects. For housing, the government also gives 80-percent loans. Even the past regime did not give 80-percent loans for production projects. So far there has not been one project — for example in the heavy industrial field — where we have said that because the investments are high the private sector cannot carry it out. So far none of these things has been done. Right now the government's policies, in the present conditions, are to support the private sector. I have no idea what will happen to this in the future. It is also not my religious duty. It does not concern me.

If we continue to do this for another 10 years it will create a polarized society, and I cannot guarantee that this will not happen. So far we have not created any obstacles for the private sector, but there may well be some natural obstacles. So far we have not created any obstacles for the private sector, yet we get accused of imposing limitations on it. God knows what will happen on the day when, as you suggest, we adopt policies that would prevent those who are involved in the export of nonoil products from becoming powerful capitalists. We have not had any policies in this area and it is not to the benefit of the government to get involved in this, because the government cannot make a final judgment in this area. It is up to the entire regime to clarify its future path in this field. While this has not been made clear, we act within the defined laws and within the capabilities that we have, without thinking if the private sector or the nationalized sector benefits from this or that action.

However, we have control over some aspects. For example, there was pressure to remove the currency ceilings on exports, and of course the government cannot accept this. To remove the export ceiling means allowing them to export the entire country's wealth without achieving anything. Exports for us are not something ideological or religious. They are financial. We want to export something that is of value. On the other hand, there are many nonoil exports that cost the government in terms of currency. For example, water melons which we export without any limitations. These need fertilizers, pesticides, tractors, trucks, roads, and fuel. All these things need foreign currency. These are the things that the government has to control because it is in the interest of the Islamic Republic to have such a control.

[Correspondent] You mentioned the drop in petroleum prices as a plot by the hands of imperialists, but you said that they were not as involved in the drop in price as they were in the price increase. You say that the real plot of imperialism occurred between 1973 and 1979 when the price of oil went up. Would you please give your reasons for this?

[Nabavi] I remember how during the past regime, even those who were involved in the struggle against it thought it strange that the regime would want to increase the price of oil. How could this regime, which is under the control of imperialism, be trying to increase the price of petroleum and even by the front-runner in OPEC?

In 1970 the price of oil was about 1 dollar per barrel. Between 1970 and 1974 this went up to 11 dollars. If we look at the commodities on the world's stock markets such as iron, wheat, copper, lead, zinc, and machinery, I see it as very unlikely that their prices could have risen 10- or 11-fold during that time. Yet all of a sudden, from 1973 to 1974 the oil price went up to 2 dollars, which means that some of this jump was from 1970 to 1973, when it reached 2.5 dollars [as published]. At that time it made a big jump, and in 1973-1974 it rose to 11 and 12 dollars. Then, we regarded this as a plot, and we had several reasons for this. One reason was that at that time there was talk of oil explorations in the North Sea.

They were saying that it would cost $5 to produce one barrel of oil from the North Sea, so the $2-per-barrel price at the time could not have made it attractive to extract oil from the North Sea. North Sea oil became a tool in the hands of imperialism enabling it to lower the oil price any time it wanted and exploit it in this manner. Of course, I think this was more to the benefit of Europe than the United States. There were even some differences between the United Kingdom and the United States on this matter.

Another issue is that most of the oil-producing nations at that time were under imperialist control. During that period, when we were in jail, there was talk of increasing oil prices. Our belief was that the oil-rich countries, despite their high income, were pup-

pets and were living in poverty. This enormous poverty caused these regimes to be unstable, and their people's dissatisfaction put these regimes in danger of falling. Therefore, it was good for imperialism to return some of this looted wealth to these countries so as to safeguard its control in these nations, because they needed U.S. help. [passage omitted]

What I regard as a conspiracy is the fact that the increase in the price of oil turned the economies of these countries in a considerable way toward total dependence on oil. Although we did export oil before, and perhaps it was the main source of our foreign currency earnings, you cannot possibly compare those times to the situation that was created after the rise in oil prices. [passage omitted]

For example, in 1970 our oil revenue was more than $1 billion. During those years our earnings from nonoil exports were $600-$700 million, and this was the ratio. But the sudden leap in the oil price upset this ratio. For example, in 1977, for the $18-$19 billion of oil revenue, we still had $600 million in earnings from the sale of nonoil products, which is one-thirtieth of the petroleum revenue. The problem with this sudden leap in the oil price was that the consumer habits in our society changed with the oil revenues while the nonoil exports remained the same or even declined.

The change in consumer habits, following the sudden rise in prices, changed our society's economic makeup. These same people who in 1970 had $1 billion in currency grew so rich that some of the middle classes even bought themselves villas in foreign countries.

Some people say the government should implement the nonoil economic policy now. But we must pay attention to the fact that the conspiracy was so deep that they imposed on us the consumer habits of Europe and the United States, which costs $20 billion to manage. This, while our nonoil exports are very much lower than this. Of course, in the short term it is impossible for us to eliminate petroleum from our export program and to sever our dependence on oil. But in any case we have to make the best use of this drop in the oil price.

Foreign Minister Velayati Leaves for UN Session

NC250537 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 25 Sep 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, our country's foreign minister, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, left Tehran for New York this morning to take part in the annual UN General Assembly session. He spoke to our correspondent before his departure, and said: Such pressing international issues as Afghanistan, Palestine, and South Africa, as well as the problems of the Third World, will be debated and discussed.

In addition to the meetings of the UN General Assembly, 6 committees on special matters, including human rights and disarmament, will work for 3 months. The Islamic Republic of Iran has already assigned a delegation of experts and specialists to represent it. Mr Velayati added: Beyond participating in the session, this will be an opportunity to exchange views and opinions with other foreign ministers. He also noted: The Nonaligned Movement and the ICO will be meeting at the same time in early October.

Foreign Journalists Tour Height 270 Area

LD250734 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 25 Sep 86

[Text] Mehran, Ilam Prov., Sept 25, IRNA — A group of 15 English, French, Egyptian, German, and Pakistani reporters, photo journalists and cameramen arrived here Wednesday afternoon to inspect the area including the recently captured Height 270.

The foreign journalists are visiting the area of the invitation of the War Information Headquarters on the occasion of the 6th anniversary of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Speaking at a news conference, a clergy said that what the Muslim forces and people of Iran expected the journalists was to reflect realities of war. He then explained how the height was captured by the Islamic combatants in an ambush attack and by passing through barbed-wired obstacles and mine fields. He said that the height was a strategic point and the key to the city of Mehran for the Iraqi enemy who sustained heavy losses to capture it. Whether Iran intends to start a new offensive in this region by capturing the Height 270, the clergy said that since the height was strategically important, Iranian forces have stationed there to control enemy's movement.

Asked if the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) took part in the operation for capturing the height, Colonel Shahidi, who was also present at the news conference, said that since the region was within the limits controlled by the army, there was no need for the IRGC to take part in the operation.

Colonel Shahidi said that the operation was launched within a limit of 15 kilometers and described the casualties that Muslim combatants of Iran sustained in the offensive as "very low".

Envoy in UK Denies Responsibility for Ship Attack

LD251123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Sep 86

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran to London has strongly rejected the British government claim that Iran was responsible for the attack 2 days ago on a British ship in the Persian Gulf. He declared: Security in the Persian Gulf will only exist at a time when the Islamic Republic also enjoys that same security. If this security is not available to us it will not be available to anyone else.

In his meeting with the under secretary in the British Foreign Office, which took place at the request of the British authorities, the Iranian charge d'affaires emphasized: It is Iraq which has attacked shipping and accepted responsibility for that action.

Following his meeting with the under secretary in the British Foreign Office, he gave an interview to the *Voice and Vision of Iran* in London and declared that during that meeting he had

strongly rejected the British government's protest, stating that Iran had the longest borders in the Persian Gulf waters and that it is Iran which would benefit most from security and stability in the Persian Gulf. Iran is devoting all its endeavors toward safeguarding its security and it is not to Iran's advantage for the security of such a region to be disrupted. He said that during his meeting with the British Foreign Office official he had informed the latter that it is Iraq which undermined security in the region since the beginning of 1984 by its attacks on nonmilitary shipping and that from that very date the Islamic Republic of Iran had called on all international quarters to condemn Iraq strongly for that action and to devote their efforts toward preventing tension and rendering the region secure. These quarters' silence and that of those who harbor interests in the Persian Gulf have encouraged Iraq to continue to undermine security in that region.

The charge d'affaires in the Islamic Republic's embassy added that he informed the British Foreign Office official that if the region is to be insecure it will be so for everyone.

Air Force Providing F-14 Training Courses

LD241655 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] Esfahan, Sept 24, IRNA — Five special F-14 fighter training courses have been held by the eighth air base here over a six year period of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Commander of the base told IRNA Wednesday that Iranian technicians had improved upon the efficiency of the jet fighters with the installation of sophisticated systems on them. "New systems are also being designed and installed in the planes which will increase their combat capability", he added.

Before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the commander said, support, spare parts, supply, and maintenace of the planes were carried out by U.S. experts, but their expulsion did not affect Iran's Air Force capability power, since Iranian specialists are now fulfilling these sensitive jobs, he said.

Parts of the fighters planes which cost $1 million before the revolution, are now manufactured in Iran at a cost of about $1,500.

Also speaking to IRNA was commander of the aviation college of the base who said that the training provided the Iranian pilots here is comparable with that of the best offered in the U.S. or other countries. The college will also train pilots of other countries as of 1988, said the commander.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,604

LD241624 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 24 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 24, IRNA — A garrison in northern Iraq, 100 kms from Iran's northwestern borders suffered heavy losses when it was bombed by Iranian jet fighters at 06:45 hours local time (03:15 hours GMT) Wednesday, said a military communique here.

Communique Number 2604 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that the fighters after successfully carrying out the mission returned safely to bases.

Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected 19 cargo ships and oil tankers of foreign countries in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related goods for Iraq.

An undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and three enemy tanks, two munitions dumps, even vehicles and several gun emplacements destroyed throughout the fronts Tuesday as they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

In Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, a number of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and seven enemy light as well as heavy vehicles and two tanks destroyed by Iranian artillery fire on Tuesday. Parts of enemy positions were also set afire.

Iranian artillery pounded Iraqi positions in Kalaleh, southern fronts Tuesday, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and blasting one enemy munitions dump.

An Iraqi tank unit came under Iranian artillery fire in Pichangizeh [name as received], southern fronts, Tuesday as a result of which some Iraqi soldiers were killed and one enemy tank and one munitions dump destroyed.

In Panjwin, northwestern fronts, several Iraqi gun emplacements were hit and destroyed by Iranian artillery fire Tuesday.

In the southern fronts, Muslim forces of Iran shelled Iraqi positions and smashed enemy patrols in Chazzabeh, Faqqeh and Pichangizeh operational theaters.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts Tuesday raging somewhat more heavily in Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar. In Qasr-e Shirin, reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters and warplanes were checked.

Iranian Muslim combatants halted Iraqi engineering operations in Piranshah, northwestern fronts Tuesday inflicting casualties and losses on enemy troops.

According to the communique, reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked in Kushk and Sharhani, southern fronts, and in Sar Dasht, northwestern fronts, on Tuesday.

Retaliatory Attacks on Basra Planned

LD251125 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 86

[Text] Fighter planes of the Iraqi aggressive regime this morning bombed several industrial units and working class areas in the suburbs of Esfahan and Arak. According to an IRNA report, the units were damaged and 34 of our compatriots wounded. The wounded were immediately taken to hospital, some of whom were released after receiving treatment.

Following the resumption of attacks on Iran's civilian areas by the Iraqi regime, the combatants of Islam will begin retaliatory action. A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters, when announcing this, said: The regime ruling over Iraq has resumed attacks on civilian areas of our country. On this basis, the combatants of Islam, in order to answer the enemy's atrocities, will retaliate. The first phase will be artillery fire on economic and military centers of Basra suburbs.

The spokesman asked the people of Iraq to evacuate the districts around economic and military installations in the suburbs of Basrah so that they will not be hurt. In conclusion, he stressed: Attacks by the warriors of Islam on economic and military installations of Basrah will continue for 2 days. Should the enemy continue his atrocities he will receive the same reply which in the past made the Ba'thist-Zionist rulers regret their deeds.